

## MINUTES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

January 14, 2014

Called to order at 7:15 p.m.

Present: Lana Razdan, Rollyn Hoffman, Peter Beacham, Jim Cox, Theresa Scatterday, Steve Attwood

Absent: Rob Liebow, Gary DellaRocco

Guests: Suzan Galpin

➤ **Minutes of the Meeting of December 10, 2013**

Approved.

➤ **New Member**

Theresa Scatterday has been appointed to the committee and was warmly welcomed.

➤ **PR Update**

There has been a two month administrative delay at Town offices in reviewing the RFP. It is now intended that it will go out on January 20 and bids opened on February 4<sup>th</sup>.

➤ **Walking Tour App Update**

The committee responsible for advancing the app development continues to gather information.

➤ **Demographic/ Real Estate Discussion**

Theresa provided the group with an overview of the strengthening real estate market in Rockport while noting that few young families are moving into the area, and the resident population median age continues to rise. The EDC is committed to the objective of trying to attract more younger people to live in the town, and as a first step has asked Theresa to identify young families who have moved into Rockport. It is hoped that a focus group can be put together of these families with the goal of understanding what motivated their decision to move, and then to use that information to assist in reaching the objective.

➤ **School Override**

Rob was absent from the meeting as he was talking with the BOS on the subject of the budget for the next fiscal year. It is clear that the citizens will be faced with an override decision as costs rise and reserves are depleted.

➤ **Other Business**

- Rol reported that he talked with George Robertson re. CATA Bus extended hours. In summary, there was little utilization of the weekday extension funded by the EDC, but significant use on weekends. Lana will discuss the implications with Erin Battistelli of the BOS.

- Peter had brought to the committee's attention an article entitled "All Economies are Local" by Christopher Robbins. The committee felt that the article provided a logical 3 step approach for creating a blueprint for local economic development. Peter will explore the possibility of identifying a college student to assist the committee in a major data gathering and analytical effort that has the potential for a postgraduate thesis and a valuable planning document for the town.
- Steve and Peter will liaise on the Wayfinding project as spring approaches.

➤ **Date of Next Meeting**

February 11, 2014

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.